

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee, March 23, 2016, Meeting Reference Materials

The following pages of information are available for agenda items for the March 23, 2016, Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee(VAAC) meeting.

Each page is meant as a reference for use during discussions about that particular agenda item.

Without the context of the meeting, these pages may not make sense on their own.

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vaac/vaac-meetings/>

Item 3. The Role of the VAAC

The following is the newly updated code section related to the role and responsibility of the VAAC, as created under Assembly Bill 683, passed in 2015:

Elections Code section 2053(b)

The committee shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of State and shall do all of the following:

- 1) Establish guidelines for reaching as many voters with disabilities as practical.
- 2) Make recommendations for improving the availability and accessibility of election materials, including, but not limited to, sample ballots, voter information pamphlets, and vote-by-mail ballots, and their delivery in print or alternative formats to voters with disabilities.
- 3) Increase the distribution of public service announcements identifying the availability of election materials for voters with disabilities at least 45 days before any federal, state, and local election.
- 4) Make recommendations for improving the accessibility of election materials made available on Internet Web sites that are in compliance with the most current, ratified standards under Section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794d), as amended, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 adopted by the World Wide Web Consortium for accessibility.
- 5) Promote the Secretary of State's toll-free voter registration telephone line for citizens needing voter registration information, including information for individuals with disabilities, and the California State Library and regional library services for individuals who are unable to read conventional print due to a visual, intellectual, learning, physical, or any other disability.
- 6) Make recommendations for providing voters with disabilities the same access and participation as is provided to other voters who are not disabled, including the ability to vote privately and independently.
- 7) Establish subcommittees to further the scope and purposes of the committee as they relate to improving voter services and access for individuals with disabilities, including, but not limited to, visually impaired voters and deaf or hard of hearing voters.
- 8) Promote the use of plain language and alternative formats for election materials.
- 9) Make recommendations for materials to train poll workers on issues related to serving voters with disabilities and providing accessible voting locations.

Item 4. Future Meeting Dates and Logistics

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) Proposed 2016 Meetings

- Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 23, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Item 5. Polling Place Accessibility – Surveyor Training and Guidelines

See attached:

Department of Rehabilitation's

"Recommended Modifications to the Polling Place Accessibility Guidelines" (16 pages)

For further information, please see the following documents:

"Polling Place Accessibility Guidelines (2014)" (44 pages)

<http://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/polling-place-accessibility/guidelines/entire-guidelines-april-2014.pdf>

and

"Polling Place Accessibility Checklist" (41 pages)

<http://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/polling-place-accessibility/checklist/appendix-b-complete.pdf>

Item 7. Election Accessibility Survey

See Attached:

“2014 Accessibility Survey Form”